

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02265 292224Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 INRE-00
NSCE-00 /053 W
-----029918 292230Z /41

O R 292200Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8676
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2265

BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 28/29

REF: SANTIAGO 2216

1. MILITARY JUDGE GENERAL ENRIQUE MOREL TOLD NEWSMEN
MARCH 28 THAT CHILEAN ARMY CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ HAD
TESTIFIED BEFORE THE AD HOC MILITARY JUDGE, GENERAL HECTOR
OROZCO. MOREL ALSO SAID THAT OTHER PERSONS WOULD BE
SUMMONED, BUT WOULD NOT SAY IF EX-DINA HEAD MANUEL CONTRERAS
WAS AMONG THEM. "LA SEGUNDA" OF THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 29
REPORTS THAT MICHAEL TOWNLEY HAS APPEARED BEFORE OROZCO
TODAY.

2. "LA TERCERA" MARCH 29 CARRIED WRITTEN REPLIES IT
RECEIVED FROM QUESTIONS PUT TO TOWNLEY THROUGH MARIANA
CALLEJAS, HIS WIFE. TOWNLEY DENIES ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE
LETELIER ASSASSINATION, ATTRIBUTES HIS IMPLICATION TO A
MARXIST PLOT, WHICH HAS SKILLFULLY MANIPULATED THE FBI AND
CIA; VIEWS SUCH CRIMES AS AN UNNECESSARY MEANS TO DEAL
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WITH THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION (EVEN IN THE CASE OF
LETELIER FOR WHOM THERE WAS GOOD EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST HE
WAS A CUBAN INTELLIGENCE AGENT); EXPRESSES A FEAR FOR HIS
LIFE, ARGUING THAT MARXIST INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED IF
HE WERE DEAD; CONCEDES THAT THE PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPH OF
"WILLIAMS" IS APPARENTLY HIS, WHILE REMINDING ALL THAT HE
HAS LEFT COPIES OF HIS PHOTOGRAPHS WITH THE US EMBASSY EACH

TIME HE HAS RENEWED HIS US PASSPORT; REAFFIRMS AN EARLIER EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT WHATEVER HE HAS DONE HAS BEEN IN THE INTEREST OF A "FREE AND DEMOCRATIC CHILE"; AND SAYS THAT HE PLANS TO CONTINUE TO LIVE IN CHILE. TOWNLEY REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATING TO ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH DINA OR ARMANDO FERNANDEZ.

3. TOWNLEY'S LAWYER, MANUEL ACUNA, AN EMERGING FIGURE ON THE SCENE, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT TOWNLEY HAS REMAINED AT HIS SANTIAGO RESIDENCE DURING MOST OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION AND HE ATTRIBUTED THE RUMOR THAT HE WAS IN THE SOUTH TO "PRESS SPECULATION." ACUNA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TOWNLEY WAS MOVED TO ANOTHER LOCATION TWO DAYS AGO "FOR SECURITY REASONS."

4. MEANWHILE, JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ TOLD NEWSMEN THAT SHE WILL INTERROGATE BOTH FERNANDEZ AND TOWNLEY AT THE SAME TIME "TO SAFEGUARD THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE LETTERS ROGATORY REQUEST." SHE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780313/aaaaakrx.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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